



**STUDENTS' UNDERGRADUATE SOCIETY**

*1435 Drummond Street, Montreal 25, Quebec*

**L'ASSOCIATION DES ÉTUDIANTS**

March 9, 1964

This report is an attempt to explain exactly what transpired at Sir George Williams University last Wednesday, March 4, 1964.

Mr. Guy Pouliot, the President of the R. I. N. addressed approximately 700 students of the University. His opening remarks lasted approximately ten minutes during which time there was complete silence in the hall. Following his address, made completely in French, Mr. Pouliot replied to questions from the audience. During this question and answer period there was heckling, but to no greater a degree than is normally experienced at any "political meeting".

At the end of the question and answer period Mr. Pouliot was escorted to student offices where he held a press conference lasting three quarters of an hour. During this time students, approximately 250 in number, congregated in the front of the school.

Outside of the school a fleur-de-lys flag appeared on the street, and one student began to step on it. The flag



# STUDENTS' UNDERGRADUATE SOCIETY

1435 Drummond Street, Montreal 25, Quebec

L'ASSOCIATION DES ÉTUDIANTS

-2-

was immediately removed and placed into a police car.

Shortly afterwards this incident the students dispersed.

During this time Mr. Pouliot was escorted out the back door of the University to expedite his departure, and to avoid any possible encounter with students or onlookers.

What follows now are several facts which must be made clear.

1. Mr. Pouliot's address was simply one aspect of a programme being held that week. Bicultural Week aimed at exposing students to all aspects of life in Quebec and Canada today.
2. The lack of a campus often causes students of the University to congregate on the street. The fact that it was the first beautiful day of the season accounts for many of the students of Sir George to see their guests off at the Drummond Street entrance. There was no hostility in the crowd, nor was it in any way unruly.
3. The Police were on the scene at the request of the organizers of the Bicultural Week. Police station #10 was notified several days in advance of the event, and were requested to have a couple of constables on duty outside of the building. In charge of the police officers was Lieutenant Pleau who filled out an "incident report" which will be referred to shortly.





STUDENTS' UNDERGRADUATE SOCIETY

1435 Drummond Street, Montreal 25, Quebec

L'ASSOCIATION DES ÉTUDIANTS

-3-

4. A fleur-de-lys flag suddenly appeared in the middle of Drummond Street. A student jumped out of the crowd and began to step on the flag. The flag was immediately removed and placed in a police car and taken to Station #10.

As reported in the police report, and as proven by observation of the flag, it was, in no way whatsoever torn or destroyed.

The most important fact, here however, is that it was only one student who was engaged in this irresponsible act.

The student who was involved, is an 18 year-old, first year student. On his own accord he approached the Student Authorities with a written letter of explanation and apology. In his letter he states in part:

"I would also like to apologize to the Montreal Police Department, to the Provincial authorities and to all the people who were placed in a precarious, embarrassing, or otherwise distasteful position because of my actions. Moreover I wish to apologize to all those concerned with a greater English - French co-operation."

This student is now being disciplined by the administration of the University.



STUDENTS' UNDERGRADUATE SOCIETY

1435 Drummond Street, Montreal 25, Quebec

L'ASSOCIATION DES ETUDIANTS

-4-

5. Perhaps the most important point to emphasize is that the entire situation has been dramatized and sensationalized by the news media. The irresponsible and often false reports of the incident caused much unnecessary trouble, embarrassment and ill-feeling among many people. The facts were accessible to all who took the trouble to check them. The officers at station #10 were always ready, and still are, to show any interested parties the flag in question, and to relate, to them, the entire incident as they saw it.

6. We realize that many people were, with just cause, offended after reading the newspaper reports and hearing the radio reports. I must however, stress that much of this was caused by inaccurate and unreliable reporting.

We too are proud of the Quebec flag, and denounce anyone who abuses it. We do not feel however, that an entire University should suffer by the actions of one of its students. Nor do we believe that this single incident should be the cause of any rupture in the good relations that we have maintained in the past with our French-speaking compatriots.



VI. 9-7515



**STUDENTS' UNDERGRADUATE SOCIETY**

*1435 Drummond Street, Montreal 25, Quebec*

**L'ASSOCIATION DES ÉTUDIANTS**

-5-

I, on behalf of the students of Sir George, and on behalf of the administration, offer our sincerest apologies for any offense or ill-feeling that this "news blowup" might have created.

. May I now end this report by saying that we at Sir George Williams hope that there will be no feeling of animosity towards us because of this incident.

Should verification be required, police station #10 is in possession of the above mentioned flag and the details are outlined in Police Incident Report #14-64-2472.

MICHAEL H. KAY  
Publicity Chairman and  
Public Relations  
Students' Undergraduate Society